

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-2426 • Fax: 517-373-2964
E-mail: senmschauer@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.state.mi.us/dem/SD19

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CONTACT: Sen. Mark Schauer
PHONE: 517-373-2426

Schauer Reminds Taxpayers That Their Contributions Protect Kids

Check-off on tax forms raises millions for youth programs

LANSING-State Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) is reminding tax payers that they have the chance to help fight child abuse when paying their taxes by using the Michigan Children's Trust check off box on their 2005 state tax return forms.

"The money raised by the income tax check off is vital to our ability to create a healthy environment for all children in Michigan," said Schauer. "These contributions are used to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect."

Sen. Schauer co-sponsored the bill, signed into law this September, that re-established the Michigan Children's Trust Fund income tax check-off box. The legislation that created the previous check-off box was set to expire this year. Sen. Schauer also sponsored a resolution in December that expressed the official gratitude of the Senate to the Michigan Children's Trust Fund for its successful work on behalf of children. The resolution was also successful, earning unanimous support of the Senate.

"We need to fight child abuse at all levels of society and all levels of government," said Schauer. "The Michigan Children's Trust has done an exemplary job, and we must continue to support their efforts."

Every five minutes, a child in Michigan is a victim of child abuse or neglect, and though over 350 cases are reported daily, many more are not. Child abuse and neglect cuts across all socio-economic, geographic, ethnic, and gender lines. Research has shown us that those most at risk and vulnerable are the youngest children in our society, age 6 and under, who represent more than two-thirds of all reported victims. There is also a direct correlation between the abuse and neglect perpetrated on our youngest citizens and crime and violence in later years. In fact, most child abuse and neglect can be prevented, and for every \$1 spent on prevention, \$34 can be saved on the consequences of abuse, not to mention the human costs which are immeasurable.

"A small donation given by each Michigan taxpayer will bring necessary resources to Michigan's child-abuse protection programs," said Schauer. "An investment in child-abuse prevention this year when you do your taxes is an investment in our future."

Programs and services funded by these monies include respite care, parent education, pregnancy and newborn support services, support groups, local family resource counsels, public education and outreach

programs in local communities. Taxpayers contribute to the Children's Trust Fund by entering their contribution amount in the space provided by the check-off box. Michigan Children's Trust Fund is the only state-wide organization dedicated solely to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

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Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.